

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method for manufacturing a plant support, wherein a box shaped element is manufactured having at least two partially open walls and an upper surface, the box-shaped element being at least partially covered with a substantially biodegradable covering material, said covering material being provided in such a manner that it at least partially covers the partially open walls and such that the walls are soil-proof but roots of a plant, growing in the box-shaped element ~~during use~~, ~~[[can]]~~ grow at least partially through the covering material and the wall to the outside of the plant support; and wherein a substantially vertically extending guide element is mounted on the box-shaped element, said guide element extending above the surface of the box-shaped element, ~~wherein said guide element is positioned midway between the two walls and, during use, functioning as a guide for a plant or plants growing in the box-shaped element; and wherein~~ placement of the box-shaped element on or in ground or growth medium facilitates growth of the roots outside of said plant support.

2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the box-shaped element is at least substantially manufactured from material having a mesh-shaped structure.

3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the box-shaped element is substantially manufactured from wire material.

4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said covering material is manufactured from at least natural fibers and a binding agent.

5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the covering material is substantially built up from coco fibers and a latex binding agent.

6. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the covering material comprises a sheet-shaped element which is folded into a covering of the box-shaped element.

7. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the covering material is woven into the walls of the box-shaped element.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) A method for cultivating plants, utilizing a plant support manufactured by a method wherein a box-shaped element is manufactured having at least two partially open walls and an upper surface, the box-shaped element being at least partially covered with a substantially biodegradable covering material, said covering material being provided in such a manner that it at least partially covers the partially open walls and such that the walls are soil-proof but roots of a plant, growing in the box-shaped element ~~during use~~, ~~[[can]]~~ grow at least partially through the covering material and the walls to the outside of the plant support, and wherein a substantially vertically extending guide element is mounted on the box-shaped element, said guide element extending above the upper surface of the box-shaped element, ~~wherein said guide element is positioned midway between the two walls and~~, during use, functioning as a guide for a plant or plants growing in the box-shaped element; and wherein the box shaped element is substantially disposed above the ground, such that the outer side of at least a longitudinal wall thereof is free, whereupon the box-shaped element is filled with soil and at least one plant is planted therein, whereupon each plant is treated such that root growth occurs, at least partly extending through the covering material, such that the ends of a number of roots are located approximately in the outer face of the wall, and after

sufficient growth of the plant, the box-shaped element with each plant is picked up and moved to another position; and wherein placement of the box-shaped element on or in ground or growth medium facilitates growth of the roots outside of said plant support.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) A plant support, comprising a box-shaped element having at least two partially open walls and an upper surface, said wall being substantially covered with a biodegradable covering material selected so that roots of a plant placed in the plant support [[can]] grow through the covering material to the outside of the box-shaped element while soil poured into the box-shaped element substantially cannot pass through the covering material; and wherein a guide element is provided which, during use, extends substantially vertically above the upper surface of the box-shaped element, ~~is positioned midway between the two walls~~, and is connected to the box-shaped element, for guiding plants to be grown in the box-shaped element; and wherein placement of the box-shaped element on or in ground or growth medium facilitates growth of the roots outside of said plant support.

17. (Previously presented) The plant support according to claim 16, wherein at least the box-shaped element is covered with a covering material which, during use, at least temporarily prevents roots growth to the outside of the box-shaped element.

18. (Previously presented) The plant support according to claim 16, wherein the box-shaped element is covered with the covering material substantially on the inside, said covering material being composed from substantially natural fibers and a binding agent and having a relatively open structure.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously presented) The plant support according to claim 16, wherein the box-shaped element and the guide element are manufactured in one piece from mesh-shaped material.

22. (Previously presented) The plant support according to claim 16, wherein the plant support is of demountable, or at least modular design.

23. (Previously presented) The plant support according to claim 22, wherein the guide element, is detachably mountable adjacent the bottom thereof to the box-shaped element.

24. (Currently amended) A method for manufacturing a hedge comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a plurality of box-shaped elements, each having at least two partially open walls and an upper surface and each being at least partially covered with a substantially biodegradable covering material, said covering material being provided in such a manner that it at least partially covers the partially open walls and such that the walls are soil-proof but roots of a plant, growing in the box-shaped element ~~during use~~, ~~[[can]]~~ grow at least partially through the covering material and the walls to the outside of the plant support, and, wherein a substantially vertically extending guide element is mounted on each box-shaped element, said guide element extending above the upper surface of the box-shaped element, ~~wherein said guide element is~~

~~positioned midway between the two walls and, during use,~~ functioning as a guide for a plant or plants growing in the box-shaped element; wherein placement of the box-shaped element on or in ground or growth medium facilitates growth of the roots outside of said plant support; and

(b) cultivating at least one plant along the vertically extending guide element of each box-shaped element by substantially disposing the box-shaped element above the ground such that the outer side of at least one longitudinal wall is free, filling each box-shaped element with soil and said at least one plant, treating each plant such that root growth occurs at least partly extending through the covering material, such that the ends of a number of roots are located approximately in the outer face of the longitudinal wall; and

(c) after sufficient growth of the plants is step (b), moving the box-shaped elements to a different position and juxtaposing said box-shaped elements end-to-end to form a substantially closed elongated hedge.

25. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein step (b) comprises guiding one or more a plants on both sides of the vertically extending guide element of each box-shaped element, such that the guide element is substantially covered by plants.

26. (Currently amended) A plant support, comprising a box-shaped element having at least two partially open walls and an upper surface, said walls being substantially covered with a biodegradable covering material selected so that roots of a plant placed in the plant support [[can]] grow through the covering material to the outside of the box-shaped element while soil poured into the box-shaped element substantially cannot pass through the covering material; wherein a guide element is provided which, during use, extends substantially vertically above the upper surface of the box-shaped element, ~~is positioned midway between the two walls~~ and is connected to the box-shaped element, for guiding plants to be grown in the box-shaped element, wherein the box-shaped element

is substantially manufactured from wire or plastic material, wherein the biodegradable covering material is pressed into an internal surface of the box-shaped element, and wherein the guide element is substantially flat and elongated in shape and substantially manufactured from wire or plastic material; and wherein placement of the box-shaped element on or in ground or growth medium facilitates growth of the roots outside of said plant support.

27. (Previously presented) The plant support of claim 26, wherein the box-shaped element and the guide element are manufactured in one piece from mesh-shaped material.

28. (Previously presented) The plant support of claim 26, wherein the plant support may be juxtaposed end to end to form a substantially elongated wall against which plants can grow.

29. (Currently amended) A method for providing a hedge, comprising:

(a) cultivating a plant according to the steps of

(i) providing a plurality of box-shaped elements, each having at least two partially open walls and an upper surface and each being at least partially covered with a substantially biodegradable covering material, said covering material being provided in such a manner that it at least partially covers the partially open walls and such that the walls are soil-proof but roots of a plant, growing in the box-shaped element ~~during use~~, ~~[[can]]~~ grow at least partially through the covering material and the walls to the outside of the plant support, and, wherein a substantially vertically extending guide element is mounted on each box-shaped element, said guide element extending above the upper surface of the box-shaped element, ~~wherein the guide element is positioned midway between the two walls and, during use,~~ functioning as a guide for a plant or plants growing in the box-shaped element; and wherein placement of the box-shaped element on or in ground or growth medium facilitates growth of the roots outside of said plant support.

(ii) cultivating at least one plant along the vertically extending guide element of each box-shaped element by substantially disposing the box-shaped element above the ground such that the outer side of at one longitudinal wall is free, filling each box-shaped element with soil and said at least one plant, treating each plant such that root growth occurs at least partly extending through the covering material, such that the ends of a number of roots are located approximately in the outer face of the longitudinal wall; and

(b) after sufficient growth of the plants in step (ii), moving the box-shaped elements to a different position and juxtaposing said box-shaped elements end to end to form a substantially closed elongated hedge, wherein a guide element is used having a height having a vertical height corresponding to the desired height of a hedge to be obtained.

30. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 29, further comprising the step of clipping said plants above an upper edge of said guide element.

31. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 29, said plant does not substantially grow above said upper edge of said guide element and falls back against said guide element.